

REMARKS

The Official Action dated March 7, 2006, has been carefully considered.

Consideration of the changes and remarks presented herein and reconsideration of the rejections are respectfully requested. Claims 1 and 13-15 have been amended. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification and claims as originally filed (for example, see Figs 3 and 4). It is believed that these changes do not involve any introduction of new matter, and thereby entry is believed to be in order and is respectfully requested. Claims 1, 3 and 5-16 remain in the application for consideration.

Claims 1, 3, 5-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In light of the amendments to claim 1, Applicants believe the rejection has been overcome. As such, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In the Official Action, claims 1, 3 and 5-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barger et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,562,142) in view of Heskett et al (U.S. Patent No. 3,675,777). The Examiner asserts that Barger et al disclose the claimed invention with the exception of the recited connector structure. The Examiner relies on Heskett et al to disclose connecting a replaceable filter cartridge to a hollow protrusion (13) in a fluid treatment system with a sealing structure having a flexible angled tapered portion (17), and an insertion aid (18). The Examiner asserts that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the sprayer assembly of Barger et al with the sealing structure of Heskett et al in order to provide the advantages disclosed in Heskett et al. Moreover, the Examiner also states that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide a locating pin to ensure proper alignment of the purifier cartridge by modifying Barger et al.

However, as will be set forth in detail below, it is submitted that the sprayer purifier

cartridge systems as defined by claims 1, 3 and 5-16 are nonobvious and patentably distinguishable over Barger et al in view of Heskett et al. Accordingly, this rejection is traversed and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Independent claim 1, from which claims 3, 5-14 and 16 depend, recites a sprayer purifier cartridge system including a sprayer for spraying water and a purifier cartridge which contains a substance for purifying water. The sprayer has a receiving structure, and the cartridge is attachable to the receiving structure of the sprayer. The purifier cartridge includes a structure having an outer surface with at least two openings therein. The openings are at least partially surrounded by an integral portion of the structure that has flexibility, wherein the portion of the structure extends toward the center of each of the openings and extends inwardly at an angle in a direction opposite to the outer surface. The portion is thinner and more flexible than the portions of the structure that are disposed outwardly thereof. The sprayer includes at least two hollow protrusions that fit into the at least two openings to permit the water to flow in at least one direction between the sprayer and the purifier cartridge. The cartridge is attachable to the sprayer and the portion of the structure forms a seal between the cartridge and the sprayer. The cartridge is disposable.

Independent claim 15 recites a sprayer purifier cartridge system having a sprayer for spraying water and a purifier cartridge. The sprayer has a recess for insertion of at least a portion of the purifier cartridge and a receiving structure for the purifier cartridge. The purifier cartridge contains a substance for purifying water and has two ends comprising a first end and a second end, an inlet and an outlet. The inlet and outlet are located on the same end of the cartridge. The cartridge is attachable to the receiving structure of the sprayer, wherein the purifier cartridge includes a structure having an outer surface with at least two openings therein. The openings are at least partially surrounded by an integral portion of the structure that has flexibility, wherein the

portion of the structure extends toward the center of each of the openings, and extends inwardly at an angle in a direction opposite to the outer surface. The portion is thinner and more flexible than the portions of the structure that are disposed outwardly thereof. The sprayer includes at least two hollow protrusions that fit into the at least two openings to permit the water to flow in at least one direction between said sprayer and the purifier cartridge, wherein said cartridge is attachable to the sprayer and the portion of the structure forms a seal between the cartridge and the sprayer.

Barger et al disclose a system and method for cleaning and/or treating surfaces by using a cleaning composition that contains at least one water-soluble or water dispersible copolymer (abstract). Barger et al generally disclose a spray device (see Figs. 1 and 2).

Heskett et al disclose a fluid treating cartridge adapted to be employed with a fluid treating apparatus in which a fluid-tight seal is required between the fluid treating element and a tube which projects coaxially into a central bore within the element (abstract).

Barger et al fail to teach or suggest a sprayer purifier cartridge system as recited in independent claims 1 and 15. As noted by the Examiner, Barger et al fail to teach the connector structure between the sprayer and the cartridge. As such, Barger et al fails to render the presently claimed sprayer purifier cartridge system obvious. Moreover, the combination of Barger et al with Heskett et al does not overcome this problem.

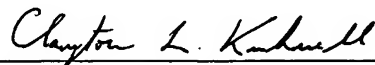
References relied upon to support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 must provide an enabling disclosure, i.e., they must place the claimed invention in the possession of the public. *Glaxo Inc. v. Novopharm Ltd.*, 34 U.S.P.Q.2d, 1565 (Fed. Cir. 1995); *In re Payne*, 203 U.S.P.Q. 245 (CCPA 1979). Heskett et al fail to teach or suggest the structure of the purifier cartridge having an outer surface with at least two openings. Instead, Heskett et al teach a filter where the fluid is treated by passing the fluid through the cylindrical side of the filter to a central bore (col.

1, lines 54-57). The element (10) of Heskett et al only has one opening through which the treated fluid then travels. The opposing end of the element in Heskett et al is sealed with a cap and therefore no opening is available for the fluid to enter or escape through that respective end. Therefore, one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of Heskett et al with Barger because the filter device in Heskett does not operate in a similar manner as that in the present application and would not have provided an operable system in combination with Barger et al. Thus, Heskett et al in combination with Barger et al fails to teach the present sprayer purifier cartridge systems as recited in the present application.

As such, Applicants contend that Barger et al in combination with Heskett et al do not support a rejection of claims 1, 3 and 5-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Applicants therefore submit that the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection of the presently claimed sprayer purifier cartridge systems of claims 1, 3 and 5-16 over Barger et al in view of Heskett et al has been overcome. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

It is believed that the above amendments and remarks represent a complete response to the objections and rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 103 and 112, second paragraph, and as such, place the present application having claims 1, 3 and 5-16 in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and an early allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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